



STATE OF IOWA

CHESTER J. CULVER, GOVERNOR
PATTY JUDGE, LT. GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
CHARLES J. KROGMEIER, DIRECTOR

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Record Collections in Iowa Child Support

DES MOINES, Iowa—Iowa Department of Human Services Director Charles Krogmeier announced Tuesday that Iowa collected a record \$351 million for children last year in support from non-custodial parents, a 2 percent increase over last year.

“For many thousands of Iowa families, a regular child support payment is an essential lifeline that helps them make ends meet, especially now as we struggle to emerge from the recession,” Krogmeier said.

He said credit for achieving the record goes to non-custodial parents who support their children despite their own economic challenges, and also to the Iowa Child Support Recovery Unit, which has long been one of the most efficient and highest-rated agencies of its kind in the country.

The CSRU, a division of the DHS, collected \$5.4 million more in the year ended June 30 than the previous fiscal year.

The average child support payment to custodial parents is \$216 a month. About 70 percent of child support payments are made on time, which ranks Iowa among the best in the country. More than 95,000 custodial parents receive on-time support payments.

Of the total collected last year, \$38 million went to reimburse the Iowa and federal governments for the cost of welfare.

As usual, three of every four child support dollars came from income withholding, but a rising share came from unemployment benefits.

CSRU Administrator Jeanne Nesbit said the underpinning of Iowa’s success is twofold.

“First, we’re aggressive in establishing paternity, establishing court orders, and setting up automatic withholdings and other collection methods.

“But just as important, we know the non-custodial parent is an important part of a child’s life. We know that children need the emotional support of both parents, and we do what we can to keep them connected,” she said.

Nesbit said that non-custodial parents who are involved with their children are much more likely to comply with court-ordered support payments than parents who feel estranged from their children.

Nesbit said many non-custodial parents are struggling to meet their obligations and some are filing requests to modify amounts owed. She said the agency is making decisions as quickly as possible but that delays mandated by state law are frustrating for both the state and parents.